

BOROUGH OF HOVE.



Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR

1921

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE TOWN

BY

AUGUSTINE GRIFFITH, M.D., D.P.H.,


Medical Officer of Health of Hove,

TOWN HALL, HOVE.

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Borough of Hove.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For 1921.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Hove.*

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health of this Borough for the year 1921.

The Report this year contains some fresh matter and is, at the same time, more concise, according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

AUGUSTINE GRIFFITH.

Town Hall, Hove.

May 18th, 1922.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	(acres) 1,594
Population (1921) Census... ..	46,519
Registrar-General, corrected for visitors	44,150
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	(not available)
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) ..	„ „
Rateable value	£438,440
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,717

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births { Legitimate	551	272	279	} Birth-rate 13.36
{ Illegitimate	39	20	19	
Deaths	609	255	354	Death-rate 13.79
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth—				
From sepsis ... ..	...	...	...	Nil
From other causes... ..	...	...	...	1
Deaths of infants under one year of age ; rate per 1,000 births—				
Legitimate, 67 ; Illegitimate, 51 ; total, 66.				
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	...	...	6
(= rate of 10.1 per 1,000 births.)				

There has been no excessive mortality from any cause ; 55 per cent of the persons who died were over 65 years of age.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	40	35	4
Scarlet Fever	101	75	1
Enteric Fever (Para-typhoid)	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	8	—	13
Encephalitis lethargica	5	—	2
Erysipelas	12	—	—
Malaria	5	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	—
Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary { M	34	—	14
{ F	31	—	18
{ Total	—65	—	—32
(b) Non-pulmonary { M.	14	—	6
{ F.	14	—	3
{ Total	—28	—	— 9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	(all treated at home, and all recovered with unimpaired vision.)	

Among the 41 who died from Tuberculosis, 12 had not been notified. Analysis of these shows that 2 died in the County Asylum, 2 in the Union Infirmary, 2 in Hospital out of Hove; 2 died of meningitis; 2 were recent visitors; leaving only 2 possible cases of omission. The notification of Tuberculosis is very good in this District; non-notified cases are generally visitors who have no medical attention unless acutely ill.

Analysis of notified cases and deaths according to age groups.

			Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-3 years.	3-4 years.	4-5 years.	5-10 years.	10-15 years.	15-20 years.	20-35 years.	35-45 years.	45-65 years.	Over 65 years.
Diphtheria—	Cases	...		1	2	2	4	14	10	3	2	2		
	deaths	...					1	2			1			
Scarlet Fever	cases	...	1		2		3	49	27	7	8	2	2	
	deaths	...										1		
Para-typhoid fever	cases	...												1
	deaths	...												
Pneumonia	cases	...									2	1	3	2
	deaths	...										3	6	4
Encephalitis lethargica	cases	...								1	1	2	1	
	deaths	...								1		1		
Erysipelas	cases	...										2	6	4
	deaths	...												
Malaria ...	cases	...									4		1	
	deaths	...												
Dysentery	cases	...									1			
	deaths	...										1		
Cerebro-spinal fever	cases	...						1						
	deaths	...												
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	Males	...					1	1			18	5	8	1
	deaths	...									5	2	6	1
	Females	...							2	2	10	10	5	2
	deaths	...								2	2	4	6	4
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	Males	...					1	9	2	2				
	deaths	...					1	1			2	1	1	
	Females	...				2	1	7	2		2			
	deaths	...		1							1		1	

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

During the very hot weather at the end of summer there were several cases of acute diarrhoea among adults, not in association with similar illness of children; these were attributed by practitioners to various causes, certain articles of diet, etc., but no clear evidence of the cause was ascertained.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, Etc.

Professional Nursing in the Home—

- (a) General—For all patients under medical care, the nurses of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Nursing Association are available, independently of the Local Authority.
- (b) For Infectious Diseases—The Local Authority has arranged for the Queen's Nurses to visit cases of Measles, Ophthalmia, Infantile Diarrhoea, Poliomyelitis and Pneumonia; the Council to pay such fees as cannot be paid by the patients.

Midwives.—Most of the midwifery is undertaken by the staff of the Women's Hospital, Brighton, which has a branch in Hove. Four other midwives notified their intention to practise, but only 2 attended cases. The Local Authority does not employ or subsidise any midwives.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

	Name and Situation.	Accommodation, etc.	By whom provided.
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre ...	Clarendon Villas	2 afternoons per week	Local Authority
Day Nursery ...	12 Goldstone Villas	42 children and infants	Voluntary Committee
School Clinics ...	Education Offices	for diseases of skin, eyes, throat, teeth and general	Local Authority
Tuberculosis ...	East Sussex County Council Dispensary Clarendon Villas	twice weekly	County Council
Venereal Diseases ...	Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	3 days weekly for men and women	County Council

Attendanees at Child Welfare Centres, 1921.

CLARENDON VILLAS, HOVE.

Total attendances of mothers, 4,207 ; average per week, 81.
 „ „ infants, 2,428 „ „ 47
 „ „ older children, 1,395 „ „ 27

PORTSLADE HALL, January to March—

Total attendances of mothers and children, 39

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC, Clarendon Villas. January to August—

16 sessions ; total attendances, 56 ; mothers, 20.

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS. Visits paid—

To expectant mothers, 193.
 To infants under 1 year : first visits, 356. Total, 3,087.
 To children 1-5 years, 2,040.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.

	Name.	Where Situated.	Accommodation.	Provided by
Tuberculosis	Darvell Bank Sanatorium	Robertsbridge (Ticehurst R.D.)	60 beds	County Council
Maternity ...	Branch of Women's Hospital	Portland Road, Hove	3 beds	Local Authority pays charges.
Children ...	Not provided or	subsidised by L	Local Authority.	
Fever ...	Hove Borough Sanatorium	Portslade	63 beds	Local Authority
Small-pox ...	Fulking Grange Hospital	On the Downs	3 beds	Reserved for Hove by Brighton Council

For unmarried mothers and illegitimate infants.—7 beds are provided by the Chichester Diocesan Purity Association, at 21 Seafeld Road, Hove. The Local Authority pays for some Hove inmates.

For Homeless children.—There are no homes receiving children directly. Dr. Barnardo's Homes have convalescent branches in the Borough for boys and girls..

Ambulance facilities.—(a) for infectious cases, provision is made by the Local Authority; (b) for non-infectious and accident cases, the Red Cross Society's cars, stationed in Hove, are available.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

The Medical Officer of Health examines at the Laboratory in the Town Hall specimens from cases of suspected infectious disease, including Diphtheria, Enteric fevers, Cerebro-spinal fever, Malaria, Dysentery; Tuberculosis, etc., also a few others, including bacteriological examination of special milks. Pathological examinations other than bacteriological are not undertaken by the Council.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to practitioners, free of cost in necessitous cases; a few bottles of the Ministry's Influenza vaccine were provided during this year; other vaccines and sera are not provided.

Specimens examined in 1921.

For Diphtheria—

From medical practitioners in Hove ...	197	
„ contacts and school children ...	189	
„ patients in Borough Sanatorium	195	
„ outside districts	83	
	—	664

For Tuberculosis.

From patients in Hove	109	
„ „ „ Borough Sanatorium	20	
„ outside districts	22	
	—	151

For Enteric fever by Widal Test 4

For Malaria 4

Grade "A" and other milks 7

Other specimens 14

— 29

Total 844

List of adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local regulations, relating to the Public Health.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part III (adopted 1891).

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part III., except Sections 48 and 50 and part IV., came into force October, 1909.

Hove Corporation Act, 1913.

Bye-laws relating to—

Slaughter-houses	... ..	adopted	1875
Footways, Cesspools and Nuisances		„	1875
Lodging Houses & Common Lodging Houses		„	1875
New Streets and Buildings	... ..	„	Sept. 1896
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	... ..	„	Feb. 1907
Removal of House Refuse	... ..	„	Nov. 1920

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Prepared by Mr. H. HERRIOTT, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Statistics of Inspections, Nuisances, etc.

Number of houses or premises inspected	... ..	2,335
„ premises visited by house-to-house inspection		
under Housing Acts	... ..	953
„ factories inspected (including factory laundries)		149
„ workshops inspected (including workshop		
laundries)	... ..	621
„ workplaces	... ..	91
„ houses or premises in which defects were found		1,112
„ defects or nuisances found to exist	... ..	4,001
„ houses or premises inspected from complaints		
received	... ..	420
„ houses or premises inspected after complaints,		
and no nuisances found	... ..	24
„ visits in respect of illness	... ..	181
„ visits to disinfect rooms or removal of bedding		
for disinfection	... ..	415
„ visits for sundry purposes	... ..	1,647
„ re-visits to premises	... ..	4,363
„ statutory notices issued	... ..	139
„ preliminary and verbal notices issued for the		
abatement of nuisances	... ..	1,130
„ visits to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	... ..	157
„ visits to provision shops	... ..	1,267
„ smoke observations	... ..	32

The undermentioned works have been carried out during the year; being the result of notices issued under the Public Health Acts:—

Number of drains reconstructed during the year (total) ...	7
„ drains defective and unventilated; reconstructed and ventilated	1
„ drains insufficiently ventilated; sufficiently ventilated	1
„ drains, channels or dishing to gully traps repaired; defective drain traps remedied; defective or unsealed chamber covers remedied ...	137
„ choked drains, w.c's or drain traps cleared and cleansed	60
„ defective soil or ventilating pipes remedied ...	60
„ rain-water pipes or guttering defective or choked, or connected directly to drain or soil-pipe; repaired, cleared or disconnected from drain	77
„ defective water closets repaired, cleansed, or new water closets provided	144
„ closets or urinals with defective flushing cisterns or inefficient water supply remedied ...	153
„ premises with insufficient sanitary conveniences, with sanitary conveniences not properly screened, not separate for sexes, or opening directly into workroom; additional conveniences provided, or proper arrangements made	14
„ defective sinks, baths or lavatory basins repaired or replaced by new	19
„ defective or choked waste pipes and traps remedied	55
„ yards, areas, and wash-houses re-paved or paving repaired	48
„ yards and areas cleansed	24
„ houses or rooms overcrowded; overcrowding abated	1
„ rooms, passages or staircases cleansed and renovated, and rooms containing dirty or verminous bedding cleansed	1,819
„ rooms or lavatories insufficiently ventilated or lighted	13

Number of windows with defective sashcords remedied	...	115
„ rooms having defective flooring, or the air space under floors insufficiently or not ventilated or defective staircases remedied		71
„ defective roofs, chimneys, ceilings, doors, windows or walls remedied	... ..	328
„ defective firegrates, flues or coppers remedied		76
„ houses without proper water supply; supply provided; or defective service pipes, taps or cisterns remedied	... ..	24
„ insufficient ashpits or dustbins remedied	...	271
„ manure cages provided	... ..	2
„ accumulations of manure or of other refuse removed	... ..	27
„ animal nuisances abated	... ..	15
„ smoke nuisances abated	... ..	1
„ container water closets abolished and replaced by others	... ..	2

Slaughter-houses.—There is none in the District.

Dairies' Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.—No legal action was taken. 41 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. No evidence was obtained from these of any disease of the cows. Several samples were up to the standard of Grade "A" milk, but some showed want of cleanliness in milking, and others a defect in cooling the milk.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act

Samples taken—

New milk	...	...	...	...	...	93
Dried milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	2

5 samples of milk were deficient in fat, the most being under 3 per cent. deficient; one contained colouring matter. Cautionary letters were sent to the vendors; no legal action was taken. The average fat in all samples was 3.44 per cent.

Milk and Cream Regulations.

Samples taken—Formal of cream., 3 ; Informal of cream, 15.

Legal proceedings were taken against one vendor for selling preserved cream without a proper label, and a fine was imposed.

Arrangements for Disinfection.

Bedding, clothes, etc., are treated by current steam.

Rooms are disinfected by formaldehyde.

Disinfection is done free of cost in the case of all notifiable diseases, and at a charge which covers the cost after other illnesses of a septic nature, and cancer, when it is asked for.

There is no provision for disinfestation of persons ; bedding is put through the steam disinfector, without charge to necessitous cases.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : A. GRIFFITH, M.D.

Sanitary Inspector : H. HERRIOTT, M.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors : H. C. SIMPSON, Cert. R.S.I.
F. W. SWAIN, Cert. R.S.I.

Health Visitors (whole time) : Miss A. M. HIPKINS, Hospital trained
Certif. H.V., R.S.I. and C.M.B.
Mrs. SWANTON (Hospital trained).

Tuberculosis Nurse (part time) : Mrs. E. E. BRIGHT
(Hospital trained).

9.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total	68
(b) As part of a Municipal housing scheme	33

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,474
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	953

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	876

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	647
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Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—*Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	112
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) By owners	103
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pur- suance of demolition orders	...	...	...	Nil

NOTEWORTHY CONDITIONS PREJUDICIAL TO HEALTH.

The most important matter affecting the Public Health is the want of Housing accommodation, and consequent overcrowding, which affects not only the health but the morals of the people.

The thirty-three houses and flats erected under the Council's Housing Scheme, and opened in December, have provided only a small fraction of what is required; there are still 180 applicants for the thirty houses now being erected, most of whom are willing to pay a reasonable rent.

NOTEWORTHY OCCURRENCES OF THE YEAR.

EPIDEMIC DISEASE. There have been many cases of Scarlet fever, the epidemic has presented the usual characters.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The ante-natal clinic was closed at the end of August, the attendances were poor and the need for it no longer existed owing to the extended work of the Women's Hospital in this direction.

The attendance of Hove mothers and children at the Portslade Welfare Centre was discontinued after March, as the arrangement was not worth the cost.

An agreement was entered into with the Women's Hospital, Brighton, in June, to receive abnormal cases of child-birth into the hospital, at the expense of the Council.

The provision of Home-helps, to look after the home and children in the case of illness or confinement of the mother, which has been undertaken by the Voluntary Aid Committee of the Welfare Centre, was stopped after March; the need for this provision, which arose during the War, no longer exists except in rare instances.

TUBERCULOSIS. The opening of the County Council's new Sanatorium in June has made better provision for these cases. The admission of men suffering from Tuberculosis into a Ward-block at the Hove Borough Sanatorium has ceased.

WATER SUPPLY. As a result of the long drought of the summer, and threatened shortage of water, the constant supply of water was cut off during the evening and night after October 9th ; this does not appear to have caused any injury to the Public Health.

ACTION TAKEN TO AROUSE PUBLIC INTEREST IN HEALTH.

There is nothing under this heading worthy of record.

SPECIAL REPORTS ON HEALTH MATTERS.

None.

